

XXXVIIth CONGRESS.
FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.—WASHINGTON, Feb. 5, 1862.

Mr. CAELLE (Rep., Va.) moved to take up the resolution he offered some time since in regard to the finances of the country. He said he offered it in reference to call the attention of the Senate to the finances of the country. The expenses of the country were now at the rate of five millions of dollars a month. He (Carlie) had hoped to have this to have had some plan from the Secretary of the Treasury for the relief of the finances of the country, but the only plan proposed by him is the issue of paper currency. He (Carlie) was opposed to any issue of the Government and the banks. He was not willing that the Government should be dependent on the banks. If the Government depends on an irredeemable paper it is, financial ruin must follow. He advocated the passage of his resolution as affording a safe and sound basis for paper currency.

The resolution was referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. FESSENDEN (Rep., Me.) from the Committee on Finance, reported back the bill making appropriations for the support of the Military Academy, without amendment, and the bill was passed.

Mr. SUMNER (Rep., Mass.) offered a resolution calling on the President to furnish the Senate the recent correspondence relative to the presentation of American citizens at the Court of France.

The resolution was adopted.

On motion of Mr. WILSON (Rep., Mass.) the bill to define the pay and emoluments of officers of the army was taken up, and the amendments of the Military Committee were adopted.

Mr. SHERMAN (Rep., Conn.) called for the reading of the ninth section, which reduces the salary of officers and all persons employed in the Army and Navy ten per cent during the rebellion. He said that was all the reduction Congress was willing to make, he would acquiesce. But this would preserve all the inequalities of the old system of compensation, now fixed by a hundred different bills. He thought if this bill should be passed, these inequalities would be fixed, and the old system of mileage kept in force. We should now take in hand a general system of reduction and retrenchment in our expenses. The estimates for the expenses of the next fiscal year were \$30,000,000, and we know that this will be increased by various bills. This is five times the currency of the country, three times more than the coin in the country, and more than the expenses of Great Britain during the war with Napoleon.

Here the morning hour expired and the bill was laid over.

The case of Mr. Bright was taken up.

Mr. ANTHONY (Rep., R. I.) said that he had arrived at the conclusion that he must vote for the resolution, though he should do so with a great deal of pain. In times like these the Senate should not be filled with men the last suspected of disloyalty. He (Anthony) should vote on the simple record of the letter. He thought that any Senator who could write such a letter as that to such a traitor was unfitness for a seat in the Senate.

Mr. HARRIS (Rep., N. Y.) said that he did not rise to further discuss the subject. The time for discussion has passed. It only needs a formal vote to indicate the determination of the Senate. The Senator from Indiana is to be expelled and nothing further need be said to control the action of the Senate. But some questions have been introduced here that were entirely irrelevant. Some Senators seem to have merged the character of the Senator in the person of Mr. Harris, then allotted to the chairman of the Select Committee from Massachusetts (Speaker) as more becoming a prosecuting attorney. These speeches seemed to him like bestowing a blow on a fallen foe. The Senator from Kentucky (Davis) has made something like a dozen speeches in relation to the pending subject, and he appeared to be the senior counsel in the prosecution. He (Davis) had visited the Committee rooms to secure evidence to impeach mainly testimony. The chairman of the Committee on Finance had referred to the speech of the Senator from Tennessee (Johnson) as that of a man of a noble and lofty and commanding spirit, but he, too, had stepped aside. Mr. Harris has read extracts from the speeches of Senators Johnson, Wilmet, and Sumner, and concluded that it would be a dangerous precedent to set, to expel a Senator without being guilty.

The case had not a parallel either in that of Folk or Breckinridge. But the question was already settled, and he (Harris) did not desire to discuss it any longer.

Sir, there is a subject somewhat personal to myself, and not entirely irrelevant to this question. An attempt has been made, Sir, in the Legislature of my State, to reannex the stillborn corps of legislative institutions. That species emanation from the pernicious and well-known anti-slavery regime has well high thrown down the morale of our Government over our heads. At this very hour, I suppose the Senator from Indiana is on trial before the State Legislature of New-York. What the result of this discussion will be cannot be foreseen there almost as long as it has a chance to be. I can only know, and, so far as my vote on this resolution is concerned, it is not important that I should know. The circumstances under which this attempt is made to reannex this exploded device in the New-York Legislature are somewhat peculiar; indeed, Sir, they are very extraordinary. Nineteen of my colleagues at the other end of the Capitol most of them my personal as well as political friends I hold in high esteem, and by whose judgment I would be guided as soon as by the judgment of any other nineteen men—jealous of the honor of their State, and, as I think, and am willing to believe in the spirit of true friendship, saw fit to communicate with the Legislature of New-York, and to solicit them in order to save our noble State from disonor and disgrace—and perhaps to retrieve their humble efforts to maintain peace. He had even voted for peace, and never given a sectional vote. Every impulse of my heart, and every tie that binds me to earth, is interwoven with the form of government under which we live, and to which I acknowledge my allegiance, and I will yield to no man in my attachment to it. Few men of my years have enjoyed more of her glorious advantages, and none have felt more grateful for them; and, though I have been assailed with all the fury of party spirit, and my character unjustly aspersed, and my loyalty and manhood questioned, this shall not alienate me from the faith of my life, or lessen the deep obligation I feel. I have devoted the humble energies of my life, wherever fortune may place me, shall give them no occasion to regret this act of justice to me and those whose destinies are interwoven with mine. I had a right to suppose that my peers would rise above the heats of party, and look on this transaction in its true light. But this is a matter that I cannot and have not attempted to control. If the Senate has been polled, and, as I see it stated in some of the papers, it is a foregone conclusion that I will lose no time in putting myself on trial again before a tribunal, whose judgment of I have ever found just, and who, I am sure, will give me all the benefit resulting from an acquaintance of forty years and upward with a service which entitles them to judge whether I am a loyal or a disloyal subject. I will allow no man, and I will yield to no man in my attachment to it. They have gone beyond the bounds of propriety. I can only account for it by referring it, as I have said, to the peculiar spirit that rules at the present moment, and which has, as we have perceived for the last few days, surrounded this chamber. I would willingly, upon most legislative questions, take counsel of my colleagues in the other Branch of Congress, and would listen to the advice of my own Legislature upon questions of political expediency or national policy. I should be strongly inclined to think they were right and I was wrong, if we differed; but upon questions like this—no legislative question, no question of policy or expediency, but one a question of right or wrong, a question of guilt or innocence, a question which is to affect with everlasting disgrace a fellow Senator, I allow no man and no body of men, however elevated to intervene between me and my conscience. Upon any judicial question or question that involves the rights of my fellow man, I answer alone to my conscience and my God. The Senate is something more than a legislative body. It shares with the President executive powers, and it possesses judicial powers. It is the body to whom the Constitution has assigned the duty of trying all cases of impeachment, and I regard this as a quasi case of impeachment. It is a judicial question, and upon a judicial or executive question the Legislature of my State has no right to interfere, or to be heard. But the Senator from Indiana is to be driven forth. If he be a traitor, as some suppose, he will ally himself to the enemies of the country, but notwithstanding this indignity and this provocation, he shall still prove loyal to his Government and faithful to his Government, the insidious teachings of the past would lead us to predict that some of us may again see him on this floor.

Mr. BAVIS (D. C., Ky.) replied to Mr. Harris, defending his (Davis') course.

Mr. FOSTER (Rep., Conn.) said that the Senator from Indiana had read two resolutions passed by a meeting in Indiana. He (Foster) asked to have the other resolutions passed by that meeting read by the clerk.

Mr. PEARCE (Dem., Md.) objected to the reading of the resolution by the clerk.

Mr. FOSTER thought that all the resolutions ought to be read, to show the connection between them.

Mr. FOSTER then read the resolutions. They deplored the state to which the country has been reduced by Generalism; reaffirm the principles of the Democratic party; declare that the present state of the country is due to the agitation of the Slavery question by the Buffalo, Philadelphia and Chicago Conventions; & declare that the Republicans, in their efforts of all kinds, that they have shown their utter inability to care for the Government in its difficulty. The resolutions conclude by denouncing the plan for the emancipation of the slaves, and by denouncing the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus.

Mr. BRIGHT (Dem., Ind.) said that he had only two of the resolutions here, because some of the others contained language which probably would be deemed offensive by some Senators, but laying aside all that he (Bright) could do in the resolutions in all their length and depth.

Mr. BAYARD (Dem., Del.) spoke at some length in favor of Mr. Bright, contending that he (Bright) could not, from all the circumstances at the time, be wrong, because he believed that there was to be war, and consequently there could not have been any intention to do wrong in writing the simple letter of introduction which he had. Mr. Bayard then referred to the speech which had been made here on a former occasion, my opinions were fixed. In the execution of details connected with the Administration of Government affairs I have always endeavored to conform my action to the policy of those in charge of the Government. So under this Administration, when differing from them I have done so in a becoming manner I trust. I have been opposed to the principle of coercion. I believe in the language of the present Secretary of State, that this Federal System is, of all forms of Government, the most uniting for this labor of coercion.

Mr. BAYARD said he had told his colleague (Bright) he should in his (Lane's) duty to introduce a resolution of general inquiry in regard to his (Bright's) course. Afterwards, at a caucus on another subject, his case was opened, but there was no caucus in this case.

Mr. BAYARD said that he was now satisfied that no cause had been held, but that party spirit had entered into this case, and as that was the case he had no longer for justice.

Mr. BRIGHT said perhaps what he should say, had better have been said weeks ago. He thanked the Judiciary Committee for the favorable report which had been made through one of their number (Mr. Foster), who had given way under unprecedented pressure. The reasons might be sufficient to warrant his colleague had told him that his case had been subject to a caucus.

Mr. LANE (Rep., Ind.) said that at the first of the session he had told his colleague (Bright) he should in his (Lane's) duty to introduce a resolution of general inquiry in regard to his (Bright's) course. Afterwards, at a caucus on another subject, his case was opened, but there was no caucus in this case.

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